

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 68, 72, 76-78, 80-83 and 85-148 are pending. New claims 117-148 are added. Upon allowance of the product claim from which they depend, rejoinder of the method claims directed to making and/or using the product is requested.

Form PTO-1449 is attached listing U.S. patent documents and the enclosed non-U.S. patent documents. The two U.S. patent documents cited in the withdrawn Office Action are listed to record their consideration. The search report for related Appln. No. PCT/EP97/01446 is listed as WO 97/36996. Foreign patent document JP 04-023979 was cited in the search of a related application and is listed with its English-language abstract. The relevant portion of JP 04-023979 was cited in the Int'l Search Report as the "see abstract" but the entire document is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

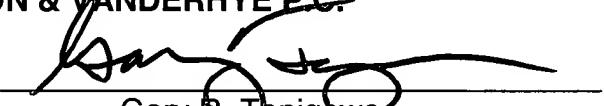
As provided by 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h), no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all possible material information. Furthermore, no inference should be made that this information or the cited references are prior art merely because they have been submitted for consideration. Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures, as well as the return of a copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials per M.P.E.P. § 609, are earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:

  
Gary R. Tanigawa  
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100